



COMMITTEE of the WHOLE

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
November 13, 2012
4:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Sterner, R. Corcoran, S. Marmarou, D. Reed, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

OTHERS PRESENT:

L. Kelleher, S. Katzenmoyer, D. Wright

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm by Council Vice President Goodman-Hinnershitz.

I. CDBG Action Plan

Mr. Wright stated that Council must adopt the CDBG Action Plan annually. He stated that HUD requires submission of the Action Plan by November 15. He thanked Council for holding a special meeting this evening to address the Action Plan.

Mr. Wright stated that Mr. Agudo reviewed the Action Plan with Council several weeks ago. He stated that no public comments have been received.

Mr. Cituk and Mr. Zale arrived at this time.

Mr. Waltman joined the meeting via speaker phone at this time.

Mr. Wright stated that the Action Plan can be amended after its adoption. He recommended adopting the Action Plan as presented to meet the HUD deadline and making amendments as necessary afterwards.

Ms. Reed questioned if amendments were not made this evening, if the recommendations made by Council would be ignored. Mr. Wright suggested that language be added stated that Council will make amendments shortly.

Mr. Bembenick arrived at this time.

Ms. Reed questioned if Council moves forward this evening if their recommendations would be honored.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested that this issue be discussed when the solicitor arrives.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that the HUD deadline must be met. She stated that this Action Plan makes allocations to outside agencies and these agencies must not be lead to believe that the funding will be available. She questioned when funds are received. Mr. Wright stated that generally funds are not received until April. He stated that agency expectations must be addressed.

Mr. Waltman stated that generally the Action Plan is not amended unless there is no follow through on projects and/or unprogrammed funds are identified.

Mr. Bembenick stated that the Administration is committed to answering questions this evening and to discussing proposed amendments after returning from their trip to Detroit. He noted the need to meet the deadline imposed by HUD.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted her understanding of Mr. Waltman's comments but stated that amendments need to be made shortly after adopting the Action Plan. She stated that the amendments can be addressed when the Managing Director returns from Detroit.

Mr. Bembenick suggested that Council adopt the Action Plan as written this evening and that the amendments be discussed at next week's Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Marmarou noted the need for the solicitor to be present. Ms. Reed agreed.

Ms. Kelleher stated that past Councils have amended the Action Plan at the meeting at which it was adopted.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted her concern with the removal of funding to Olivet Boys and Girls Club. She noted the need to return some level of funding.

Mr. Younger joined the meeting via speaker phone.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned Council's ability to amend the Action Plan this evening. Mr. Younger stated that if the amendments are significant they cannot be adopted this evening as re-advertising may be required.

Ms. Reed questioned what was significant.

Mr. Wright explained that the public service category is capped. He stated that there is tight funding and the Administration must prioritize funding for City needs before deciding which outside agencies are funded and at what level. He stated that this funding is very competitive.

Mr. Younger arrived at this time.

Mr. Sterner suggested adding language that Council will be making amendments at a later date. He expressed his belief that Council is in no position to make amendments this evening. He suggested including a timeline for amendments.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need for the Administration to hear Council's concerns. She suggested that the Action Plan be adopted as written this evening and amended as quickly as possible. Mr. Younger agreed with this approach as the HUD deadline must be met. He stated that this would allow Council to continue to discuss and amend the Action Plan.

Ms. Reed suggested adding amendment language to the resolution. Mr. Younger stated that it would be difficult to add amendment language without specific information. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggesting add a clause that Council reserves the right to make amendments.

Mr. Sterner stated that any legislation can be amended. Mr. Wright stated that HUD understands Council's right to make amendments.

Mr. Waltman arrived at this time.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the need to have Council's concerns on the record. Mr. Younger stated that the language contained in the resolutions is fine as is.

Mr. Waltman questioned what makes this Action Plan different from Action Plans of past years. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that in the past Council had time for more in-depth review and to propose amendments before adoption.

Mr. Waltman questioned specifically what Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz's concern was. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that it is the removal of funding to Olivet.

Mr. Waltman stated that reprogramming funding to Olivet would mean removing funding from another agency. He noted that this would create confusion for agencies. He suggested using unprogrammed funds for Olivet as they are found. He questioned the current amount of unprogrammed funds. Mr. Wright stated that he was unsure but that Community Development has been working hard to keep project managers accountable to spending deadlines. He noted his willingness to present this information to Council once he can perform a review.

Ms. Reed questioned Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz's funding level for Olivet. Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz suggested reducing the 2012 funding amount by 20%. Mr. Cituk stated that Olivet received \$38,819 in 2012. (*Note: minus the 20%, the 2013 funding level would be \$31,056*). He suggested that Council adopt the resolution as written this evening and hear a presentation from Mr. Wright about unprogrammed funds available before considering amendments.

Ms. Reed stated that she is opposed to funding BCTV. She stated that the City should not be funding news agencies. She stated that she has heard complaints about BCTV's quality (sound, lighting, etc), the coverage by the MAC Channel, and repeating very old programs. She stated that this does not seem to be a valuable way for the City to spend CDBG funds when other agencies have a greater need. She noted her concern that the City is giving too much support to BCTV.

Mr. Marmarou disagreed with Ms. Reed. He noted that BCTV is a tremendous asset to the County. He stated that for shut-ins, this programming is very helpful as it keeps citizens fully involved in the community.

Mr. Waltman stated that the funding is to assist BCTV to televise City meetings. He suggested that Council meet with BCTV representatives in 2013 to address the quality issues. He suggested that Community Development review the availability of unprogrammed funds to restore funding to Olive as able. He noted the need for Council not to operate in a vacuum.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need for Council to vote on this item this evening.

II. Agenda Review

Council reviewed this evening's agenda including the following:

- Contract approving the purchase of recycling trucks

Mr. Bembenick reminded Council that Mr. Denbowski reviewed the recycling truck information with them several months ago. He stated that the funding of the trucks is a monthly lease payment for five years.

Mr. Sterner questioned the other contract for recycling trucks. Mr. Younger stated that this is a topic which would need to be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Bembenick stated that this new contract gets the City back to its original position.

Mr. Waltman questioned if it was advisable for Council to approve this contract award. Mr. Younger stated that it was.

- Ordinance amending the Recovery Plan

Mr. Younger stated that he is drafting the ordinance. He stated that it will be a simple ordinance amending the Recovery Plan to allow for the increase in resident and non-resident earned income tax rates.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that this ordinance will be introduced this evening and that there will be further discussion before final passage.

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Linda A. Kelleher, CMC, City Clerk*